



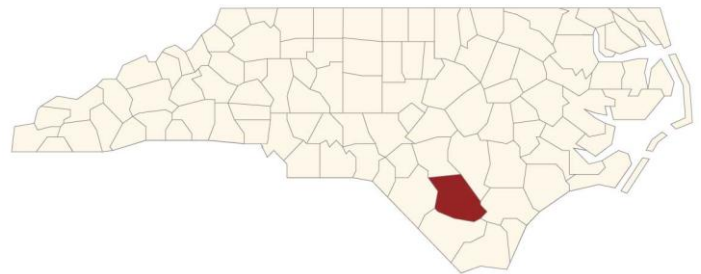
On February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama. ARRA provides increased support to several existing federal programs administered by states, creates new programs such as the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, and offers opportunities for states to apply for competitive grant programs.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's significant investment in North Carolina totaled almost \$19.5 billion, including assistance for those needing help the most through increases in unemployment benefits, Medicaid payments, and food stamps. In addition to those expanded services, ARRA gives hundreds of thousands of working North Carolinians a break through tax credits like the *Making Work Pay* tax credit and the *First Time Homebuyer's* tax credit.

The Recovery Act is not like earlier attempts to revive the nation's economy. It is not only a one-time infusion of federal funds; instead it is a long-term effort to restore economic expansion in the short-term, as well as prepare the nation's economy for stable, healthy long-term growth. Under the terms of the Recovery Act, support for North Carolina's economy will include both investments made directly by the federal government and investments of federal funds that are made under the oversight of the North Carolina state government.

## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Report, Bladen County

Bladen County received more than \$77 million in ARRA funding in grants, loans, and bonds. The following report outlines the various funding categories that contributed to the Alamance County total.



**Pell Grant Awards:**  
**1,606**



**Small Business Jobs:**  
**42**

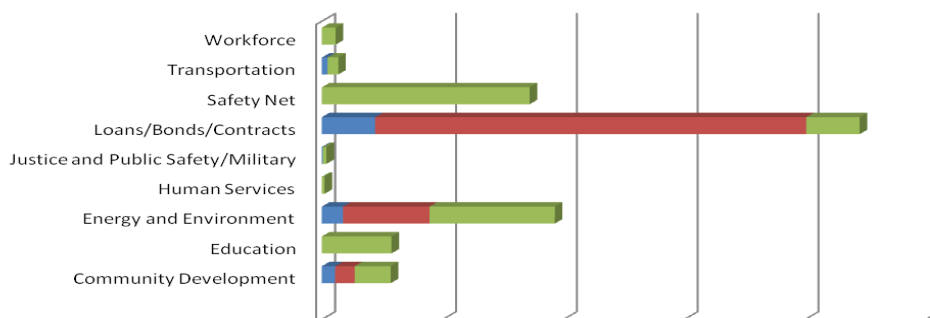


**Appliances rebated:**  
**56**



**Family homes financed:**  
**9**

### Bladen County Totals



**Bladen County,**  
pop 32,278 at a glance:

### Recovery Act Totals:

Grants: \$33,188,636

Loans: \$13,724,357

Bonds: \$30,738,700

**Total: \$77,651,693**



## Education

The Recovery Act placed a special emphasis on maintaining education funding. Governor Beverly Perdue furthered this commitment by pledging additional recovery funds from the Recovery Act to education, and leading North Carolina to additional funds by winning \$400 million in the Race to the Top program.

Most of the ARRA education funds are distributed to local schools through existing funding formulas. Special Education Funds and Title I funds go to schools based on eligible student enrollment. State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) and the EduJobs grants were designed to hold schools harmless during the recession, and were distributed to public and charter schools. The school systems have spent the majority of the funds on staff and support. Some projects, such as Race to the Top, will be spent for purchasing products and services rather than salaries for staff.

Authorization for low/no interest bonds for school construction/renovation followed the Department of Public Instruction procedures with initial allotments to the school systems. If a school system could not utilize their allotment, it was released to other school systems that could utilize additional allotments.

**Bladen County schools** received \$6.5 million in education funding, including \$1.17 million in Special Education funds, \$1.37 million in Title I funds, \$3.03 million in SFSF funds, \$925,593 in Race to the Top funding and received a \$1.5 million bond allocation.

Pell Grants are an educational Assistance Program that provides grants to eligible students to receive post-secondary or vocational training. Because Pell Grants are not student loans, they allow students to receive financial assistance to further education and training without incurring additional debt. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act increased the eligibility and the maximum amount of Pell Grants in 2009 and 2010 as a way to encourage educational opportunities, and to provide a way for eligible applicants to gain new job skills.

**In Bladen County**, Bladen County Community College had 1,606 students funded by Pell Grants, worth more than \$2.5 million.



## Family Assistance

The Federal Department of Agriculture increased funding to their Single-Family home program with the ARRA. These resources assisted families in achieving the American Dream of home ownership through direct financial assistance (grants) or credit (loan guarantees). This program pumped more than \$729 million into North Carolina, providing assistance to more than 5,400 families.

**In Bladen County**, 9 families received assistance through this program totaling more than \$824,247.

The Department of Energy created the Energy Star Appliance rebate program to help stimulate the economy by incentivizing the purchase of new, more energy efficient appliances, and helping consumers by providing long-term savings from their utility bills. The State Energy Office in the North Carolina Department of Commerce managed the

program insuring North Carolina residents and retailers received the maximum benefit from this opportunity. North Carolina retailers sold more than 25,500 new energy efficiency appliances through this program, and North Carolina residents will enjoy energy savings for years to come. The program was so successful, that the State Energy Office reprogrammed additional funding to provide discounts to everyone participating in the program, bringing the total program value from \$8 up to \$10 Million.

**Bladen County** retailers sold 56 appliances through the Energy Star Appliance rebate program.



## Small Business Assistance

The ARRA provided tax breaks, increased depreciation of business assets, and incentives for hiring for small businesses through the tax law changes found in Part B of the Act. The Recovery Act also established direct aid programs through the federal Small Business Administration (SBA) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA). These programs provided grants, loans and loan guarantees to grant small businesses access to much-needed operational credit during 2009 and 2010.

**In Bladen County** 4 small businesses received SBA loan guarantees worth almost \$185,000. According to the small businesses receiving these loans, the Recovery Act saved or created 42 jobs.



## Farm Assistance

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program is administered by the Farm Services Administration in the federal Department of Agriculture, which provides assistance to farmers suffering crop losses due to natural disasters. To qualify for the program a farm must have lost at least 10% of one crop during a natural disaster in a declared disaster county, or lost 50% of a crop during a disaster in a non-disaster county. North Carolina farmers received more than \$9 million in total payments under the ARRA-Funded SURE Program.

**In Bladen County**, \$158,395 was received in assistance to farmers because of crop loss to natural disasters.



## CARS Program

The Car Allowance Rebate Program (CARS), more widely known as the 'Cash-for-Clunkers' program, provided an incentive for drivers of older, energy inefficient vehicles to upgrade to new cars. This program also provided a large economic impact in North Carolina, and North Carolina dealers received more than 18,000 trade-in vehicles through this program. North Carolina Car Dealers sold more than \$400,000,000 worth of new cars (recommended MSRP) through the CARS program. North Carolina drivers will save 172,130 miles per gallon through cars purchased through this program.

**In Bladen County**, car dealers sold 7 cars worth almost \$164,000 through the ARRA CARS program.



## Justice and Public Safety Programs

ARRA increased funding to the federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grants Program (JAG). JAG funds were awarded both as a formula allocation to the State, for \$34.5 million, and grants distributed by the Governor's Crime Commission to various local governments and entities. In addition, \$21,853,798 went to 216 local governments across the state for various purposes in line with the requirements of the act. Finally, there is a federal competitive portion that was open to state or local government applicants.

**In Bladen County,** Bladen County and the City of Elizabethtown received JAG grants worth a total of more than \$180,000 for law enforcement purposes.



## Environment and Natural Resources Programs

ARRA funded several programs to protect the environment, or to develop natural resources more efficiently. These programs ranged from environmental clean-up, such as leaking underground storage tank abatement and Brownfields programs, to EPA clean air grants, wildfire prevention grants, and revolving funds to build, expand, or overhaul existing water and sewer programs. These programs provided nearly \$150 million across North Carolina.

**In Bladen County,** 2 water and sewer grant were awarded, totaling more than \$1.2 million.



## Safety Net Programs

Safety net programs are the category of ARRA funding that consists of programs designed to help populations made particularly vulnerable by the economic crisis. These generally include increases in existing programs, most notably the increase in both benefit level and duration of unemployment payments. Increases in the amount and duration of unemployment payments makes up the largest chunk of safety net programs funded through the Recovery Act, totaling more than \$3.5 billion statewide over more than two years. Safety net programs such as unemployment insurance and SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps), not only benefit the recipient, but have a proven economic impact on a community.

**Bladen County** residents received more than \$12.37 million in Unemployment Insurance increases during the 2 ½ year ARRA benefits increase. County residents also received \$2.93 million in SNAP benefit increases, and \$1.88 million in one-time payments of \$250 to social security recipients.

## Bladen County Feature Story

### Bladen County Protects the Community with Recovery Funds

The ARRA funded an increase in the federal Justice Assistance Grants Program (JAG). The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program is a federal program administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance in the Federal Department of Justice. This program provides grant funding for projects fulfilling any of these major public safety purposes:

- Law enforcement programs.
- Prosecution and court programs.
- Prevention and education programs.
- Corrections and community corrections programs.
- Drug treatment and enforcement programs.
- Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs.
- Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation).

JAG funds flow into the state in three ways. The first is a formula allocation to the state. North Carolina received **\$34,491,558** that was distributed to various applicants through the Governor's Crime Commission. In addition, \$21,853,798 went to 216 local governments across the state for various purposes in line with the requirements of the act. Finally, there is a federal competitive portion that is open to state or local government applicants. North Carolina has successfully applied for additional Violence Against Women, and Victims of Crime funds.

Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) is a recurring federal program. The Governor's Crime Commission distributes competitively on an annual basis to state, local, and nonprofit entities.

One project funded through ARRA JAG was the Bladen County Safe Communities initiative. The Safe Communities program is a county-level law enforcement program aimed at incorporating multiple law enforcement and community partnerships and sharing methods and information to curb gang violence.

Bladen County received \$74,000 to support this initiative. The Elizabethtown Police will use this grant to address the rise in gang activity and violence in the county and will receive training and technical assistance opportunities (conferences, teleconferences, and webinars) with UNC-G and the John Jay School of Criminal Justice in 2011.

A mentoring program and a gang prevention/intervention program for at-risk youth will also be implemented with these funds.



## Appendix, Bladen County breakout

Federal Agency	Program Title	Recipient name	Recipient role <sup>i</sup>	Prime Amount <sup>ii</sup>	Unique Sub Awards <sup>iii</sup>	Loans	Additional Economic Activity (not counted toward totals) <sup>iv</sup>
	Bonds		P			\$30,738,700.00	
		Lee, County Of	P			\$4,000,000.00	
	Cash for Clunkers		S		\$28,500.00		
	Federal Pell Grant Program	Bladen Community College	P				
	Very Low to Moderate Income Housing Loans - Guaranteed	Individuals	L			\$824,247.00	
<b>Administration for Children and Families</b>	ARRA - Child Care and Development Block Grant	Bladen, County of	S	\$0.00	\$227,828.75	\$0.00	
<b>Department of Agriculture</b>	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	Multiple Individuals	S		\$2,931,274.56		
<b>Department of Energy</b>	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)	Bladen Community College	S	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	
		Bladen County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$197,230.00	\$0.00	
		Bladen, County of	S	\$0.00	\$21,600.00	\$0.00	
		Elizabethtown, Town Of	S	\$0.00	\$122,900.00	\$0.00	
<b>Department of Health and Human Services</b>	Aging Congregate Nutrition Services for States	Bladen County Division On Aging	SV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Aging Home-Delivered Nutrition Services for States	Bladen County Division On Aging	SV	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>Department of Housing and Urban Development</b>	Community Development Block Grants - State HI	Clarkton, Town Of	S	\$0.00	\$277,335.50	\$0.00	
	Public Housing Capital Fund Formula (Recovery Act Funded)	Bladenboro Housing Authority	P	\$187,927.00		\$0.00	\$187,927.00

		Clarkton Housing Authority	P	\$118,612.00		\$0.00	\$118,612.00
		Elizabethtown Housing Authority Inc	P	\$56,826.00		\$0.00	\$56,826.00
<b>Department of Justice</b>	Recovery Act - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program / Grants To Units Of Local Government	Bladen, County of	P	\$84,227.00		\$0.00	\$84,227.00
	Recovery Act - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program/ Grants to States and Territories	Elizabethtown, Town Of	S	\$0.00	\$99,450.00	\$0.00	
				\$0.00	\$99,450.00	\$0.00	
<b>Department of Labor</b>	Unemployment Insurance	Multiple Individuals	S		\$12,374,141.23		
<b>Federal Highway Administration</b>	Highway Planning and Construction	Barnes Paving Company, Inc.	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$422,150.64
		North Carolina Department Of Transportation	P	\$466,764.00		\$0.00	\$466,764.00
<b>Food and Nutrition Service</b>	Child Nutrition Discretionary Grants Limited Availability	Bladen County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$28,572.46	\$0.00	
<b>Forest Service</b>	Recovery Act of 2009: Wildland Fire Management	Berger Peat Moss	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$111,878.08
		Environment And Natural Resources, North Carolina Department Of	P	\$1,742,000.00		\$0.00	\$1,742,000.00
		Mcclure And Associates Construction, Inc.	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$221,148.00
		SK Design, Inc.	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$123,961.00
		Stuewe & Sons, Inc.	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$383,250.00
		Weeks-Williams-Devore, Inc.	PV	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$38,330.00
<b>Idaho Operations Office</b>	Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program (EEARP)		P		\$7,807.75	\$0.00	
<b>Office of</b>	Education	Bladen County	S	\$0.00	\$35,012.00	\$0.00	

Elementary and Secondary Education	Technology State Grants, Recovery Act	Board Of Education					
	State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) - Education State Grants, Recovery Act	Bladen Community College	S	\$0.00	\$326,868.58	\$0.00	
		Bladen County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$3,034,162.00	\$0.00	
	State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) - Race-to-the-Top Incentive Grants, Recovery Act	Bladen County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$925,593.00	\$0.00	
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services	Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies, Recovery Act	Bladen County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$1,374,960.00	\$0.00	
	Special Education - Preschool Grants, Recovery Act	Bladen County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$44,541.00	\$0.00	
	Special Education Grants to States, Recovery Act	Bladen County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$1,132,891.00	\$0.00	
	Community Facilities Loans and Grants		P	\$100,000.00		\$0.00	\$100,000.00
Rural Housing Service		Bladenboro, Town Of	P	\$0.00		\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
				\$100,000.00		\$0.00	\$100,000.00
		Elizabethtown, Town Of	P	\$0.00		\$253,370.00	\$253,370.00
				\$136,430.00		\$0.00	\$136,430.00
				\$200,000.00		\$0.00	\$200,000.00
				\$0.00		\$650,000.00	\$650,000.00
				\$200,000.00		\$0.00	\$200,000.00
				\$0.00		\$506,740.00	\$506,740.00
Rural Utilities Service	Water and Waste Disposal Systems for Rural Communities - ARRA	Bladen, County of	P	\$0.00		\$7,170,000.00	\$7,170,000.00
Small Business Administration	Loans	Columbus Industry, LLC	L			\$10,000.00	
		Faithland, Inc.	L			\$10,000.00	
		Pack Family Medicine PLLC	L			\$50,000.00	
		Soo Chic Boutique, Inc.	L			\$50,000.00	



<b>SSA</b>	Social Security Economic Recovery Act Payments	Multiple Individuals	P	\$1,887,500.00			
<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - civil program financing only</b>	No CFDA for Contract type awards	Atkinson - Wecc, Jv	P	\$362,990.61		\$0.00	\$362,990.61
		Precon Marine Incorporated	P	\$3,600,156.31		\$0.00	\$3,600,156.31
		SEPI Engineering & Construction, Inc.	P	\$455,086.78		\$0.00	\$169,373.16
		Tetra Tech, Inc.	S	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$285,713.62
<b>USACE</b>							
<b>Grand Total</b>				\$7,811,019.70	\$25,377,617.82	\$44,463,057.00	\$17,891,847.42

<sup>i</sup> Recipient Role are as follows: P is a prime recipient; S is a Sub-recipient; PV is a vendor to a prime recipient; SV is a vendor to a sub-recipient; L is a loan recipient.

<sup>ii</sup> Prime Amounts are unique prime awards within a county. These are entities who have received funding directly from a federal agency, and are required to report directly to [www.federalreporting.gov](http://www.federalreporting.gov)

<sup>iii</sup> Unique Sub Awards are amounts that flow into a county from a source that is NOT directly from a Federal Agency. Generally these are funds awarded to the North Carolina State Government that have been directed to a local source.

<sup>iv</sup> Additional Economic Activity are economic activity attributable to a previous funding category. They may be a sub award by a prime recipient within a county, or a contract funded by one of the previous three columns. This economic activity is not counted toward the county total.